



FSU-NEW LANDS: Unfavorably hot, dry weather intensified across primary spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakstan, increasing stress on crops in the filling stage. Maximum temperatures in the region ranged from 36 to 40 degrees C, accelerating crop development. In Russia, showers (8-40 mm or more) improved moisture conditions for spring grains from the Urals eastward into the western portion of Western Siberia, although above-normal temperatures maintained high evaporation rates. Farther east, unfavorably hot, dry weather stressed spring grains in the Altay Kray region of Western Siberia, causing crop conditions to deteriorate. Maximum temperatures in the region climbed into the lower 30's degrees C. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 5 degrees C above normal in Russia and 4 to 6 degrees C above normal in Kazakstan. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, unseasonably hot weather prevailed over most areas, increasing irrigation requirements and promoting rapid cotton development.